GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6201
ANSWERED ON:06.05.2003
WORLD WATER ASSESSMENT PROGRAMME UNDER UNESCO
PARSURAM MAJHI

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the World Water Assessment Programme under the UNESCO has categorized the quality of drinking water in India as poor;

(b) If so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) The steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the quality of water ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ANNASAHEB M. K. PATIL)

(a) The World Water Assessment Programme (WWAP) has not categorized the quality of drinking water in India as poor. Countries have been ranked.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Rural Drinking Water Supply is a State Subject.The Central Government assists the States in this task by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP).15% of the funds released to the States under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) are earmarked for tackling quality problems like arsenic, fluoride, Salinity, nitrate, iron etc.As per the existing guidelines Schemes or Projects can be taken up under Sub- Mission on Quality. Sub-Mission were being sanctioned by the Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission (RGNDWM) up to 31.03.98.From 1.04.98 powers to plan, sanction and execute such projects have been delegated to the State Governments.